AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0033] of Applicants' specification with the following paragraph:

For one embodiment, packet classification unit 106 is of the type disclosed in co-pending and commonly-owned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~09/806,170~~ 09/406,170 entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING PACKET CLASSIFICATION FOR POLICY BASED PACKET ROUTING," issued November 28, 2006 as USP 7,143,231, which is incorporated by reference herein. In some embodiments, packet classification unit 106 may also include or have an associated well-known network search engine (not shown for simplicity).

Please replace paragraph [0065] of Applicants' specification with the following paragraph:

FIG. 18 shows a portion 2000 of one embodiment of traffic management processor 400 configured to prevent overflow conditions in DTC circuit 302's counter from inadvertently re-ordering packets. Portion 2000 is shown to include a departure time table 2020, a counter 2002, an ALU 2004, and a reset circuit 2006 (for simplicity, other elements of traffic management processor 400 are not shown in FIG. ~~2018~~). Table 2020 includes all the elements of table 420 of FIG. 4, with the addition of a rollover bit (R-bit) 426 included in each row 422 of table 2020. For some embodiments, each R-bit 426 forms the most significant bit (MSB) of the corresponding departure time (TD) stored in table 2020. Counter 2002, which can be any well-known binary counter, increments TA in response to state transitions of CLK. TA is provided as an input to ALU 2004, which generates TD in response to TA, SZ, and 1/BW as described above with respect to FIG. 4. Together, counter 2002 and ALU 2004 form a DTC circuit that is one embodiment of DTC circuit 302. TA is also provided to reset circuit 2006, which for some embodiments is an AND gate.

Please replace paragraph [0093] of Applicants' specification with the following paragraph:

For embodiments of FIG. 4, the V-bit 424 for a departure time in table 420 is de-asserted when the packet is selected for departure, which in turn allows priority encoder 406 to select the row 422 in table 420 for replacement with a new departure time for a new packet. However, for embodiments of FIG. 9, the departure time of a packet selected for transmission is needed to calculate the departure time of the next packet in the same flow, and therefore should be retained after the packet departs. Thus, the departure time for the most recently received packet for a flow should be retained unless the packet is the last packet in the flow. Accordingly, for some embodiments of FIG. 9, the last packet of a flow can include a termination bit that indicates the packet is the terminal packet in the flow. The termination bit can be used to override and de-assert the M-bit for the last packet in the flow, and then priority encoder 406 can generate the NFA in response to V-bits 424 and M-bits 912. For one embodiment, priority encoder 406 can be configured to consider corresponding rows 910 in CAM device 902 and rows 422 in table 420 only if the corresponding V-bit is de-asserted and the corresponding M-bit is de-asserted.